

**CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for diagnosing an immunologic food sensitivity and an ailment comprising the steps of:

collecting a fecal sample;

screening the fecal sample to detect the presence of an IgA antibody to a particular food substance;

diagnosing ~~[[an]]~~ the immunologic food sensitivity based on the presence of the antibody;  
and

diagnosing ~~[[an]]~~ the ailment, wherein the ailment is related to the immunologic food sensitivity.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of concentrating the fecal sample to obtain a testing portion after said collecting step and~~ collecting a testing portion from the fecal sample, wherein said testing portion is the sample in ~~said~~ the screening step.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the testing portion is undiluted.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of homogenizing the fecal sample prior to ~~said concentrating~~ the collecting the testing portion step.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the testing portion is about 20 grams.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ the screening step utilizes an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA) testing kit to detect the presence of ~~[[an]]~~ the antibody to a particular food substance.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~said~~ the screening step utilizes an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA) testing kit to detect the presence of ~~[[an]]~~ the

antibody to a particular food substance.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~said concentrating the~~ collecting the testing portion step comprises the steps of:

centrifuging the fecal sample;  
removing a supernatant portion from the centrifuged fecal sample; and  
using the supernatant portion as the testing portion.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the centrifuging step is performed at a rotation speed dependant upon the viscosity of the sample.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the rotation speed is between about 13,500 and 20,000 rpm.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the testing portion is screened undiluted and is about equal to an amount of diluted serum required by standard use of an ELISA kit.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~said concentrating the~~ collecting the testing portion step comprises the steps of :

freeze-drying the fecal sample to a solid material; and  
reconstituting the solid material with water to form a reconstituted testing portion.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein ~~said~~ the reconstituted testing portion is about 25% solid material and about 75% water.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~said~~ the fecal sample contains more than about 90% water in its excreted state and wherein ~~said concentrating the~~ collecting the testing portion step comprises the steps of:

freeze-drying the fecal sample to a solid material; and  
reconstituting the solid material with water to form a reconstituted testing portion.

15-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ailment presents similar symptoms as ~~said~~ the immunologic food sensitivity.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein ~~said~~ the symptoms are malabsorption of fluids, malabsorption of dietary nutrients, vitamin deficiency, osteoporosis, fatigue, anemia, diarrhea, weight loss, bloating, flatulence, abdominal pain, constipation, nausea, growth retardation in children, seizures, and other unexplained neurologic symptoms.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the ailment is irritable bowel syndrome, microscopic colitis, chronic diarrhea, chronic liver disease, gastroesophageal reflux, hepatitis C, hepatic disease, Crohn's disease, an autoimmune disease, autism, alcoholism, idiopathic neurologic syndromes, or neuropsychiatric syndromes.

38-64. (Cancelled)